

What is claimed is:

1. A device, comprising:

2 a fan including a speed output, wherein a rotational speed of said fan is characterized  
with respect to altitude; and

4 a converter electrically coupled to said speed output from said fan, wherein said  
converter receives a fan speed and outputs an altitude.

6  
2. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to  
2 calculate said altitude from said fan speed.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses a look up table to calculate  
2 said altitude from said fan speed.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is output by said fan as a digital  
2 signal.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is output by said fan as an analog  
2 signal.

6. A device, comprising:

2 a fan, wherein a rotational speed of said fan is characterized with respect to  
altitude;

4 a fan speed detector, outputting a fan speed;

a converter, electrically coupled with said fan speed detector, wherein said

6 converter receives said fan speed and outputs an altitude.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to  
2 convert said fan speed to said altitude.
8. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses a look up table to convert said  
2 fan speed to said altitude.
9. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed is output by said fan speed detector  
2 as an analog signal.
10. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed is output by said fan speed detector  
2 as an analog signal.
11. A method for the determination of an altitude, comprising the steps of:  
2 a) characterizing a rotational speed of a fan with respect to altitude;  
b) measuring a rotational speed of said fan; and  
4 c) converting said rotational speed into an altitude.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using an  
2 arithmetic algorithm.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using a look  
2 up table.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein said measuring a rotational speed of said fan  
2 step is performed by said fan.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said measuring a rotational speed of said fan  
2 step is performed by an optoelectronic device.

16. A device, comprising:  
2 means for detecting the speed of a fan; and  
means for converting said speed of said fan into an altitude.

4

17. The device of claim 16, further comprising:  
2 means for characterizing said speed of said fan with respect to altitude.

4